Child labour in rural areas

965. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many child workers in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such workers, the sectors/areas where they are employed, wages provided in various sectors during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the details of action taken to control the child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Census conducted by the Registrar General of India is the only authentic data in respect of child labour in the country. According to the 2001 census, the number of working children in rural areas is 1.13 crore. The information pertaining to the number of child labourers employed in various sectors in rural areas and their wages is not maintained in the Ministry.

(c) Government is committed to the goal of elimination of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequantial aproach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour beginning with the children working in the hazardous occupations and processes. The action plan adopted by the Government to eliminate child labour comprises of legislative measures, general development programmes for benefiting children and project based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme, the children are withdrawn from work and put into special schools where they are provided basic education, vocational training, mid-day meal and health checkup in order to prepare them to be mainstreamed into the formal schooling system. During the 9th Plan, the NCLP Scheme was implemented in 100 districts of 13 child labour endemic states. The number of districts has been expanded to 250 districts in 20 states during the 10th Plan.

Gender inequality in wages

966. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Wage Report in Rural India" for the agricultural year 2004-05, shows stark evidence of gender inequality;